

Dear _____ School,

We know that you are concerned about the well-being of your students, their productivity and morale. We invite you to participate in an important opportunity, the development of facility policies and support for breastfeeding students.

When a student returns from maternity leave, she wants to be a good student and a good mother. That is why so many young women today are choosing to breastfeed their babies, even as they return to school. Studies indicate that women who breastfeed are more productive and worry less about their babies when away. Because their children are healthier, breastfeeding students miss less school to care for their sick infants. Breastfed infants are fifty percent less likely than formula fed infants to become ill in the first year of life.

Returning to school after having a baby can be a difficult transition. Schools can support a breastfeeding mother by providing a designated place to pump breastmilk or allowing for a flexible schedule to enable the student to breastfeed her student during the day. Policies and practices that support nursing mothers can make a difference between continued successful breastfeeding and unwanted weaning. They can also contribute to the success of a mother as a student. Information on providing lactation support can be found at <http://kansasbusinesscase.com/> and <http://www.womenshealth.gov/breastfeeding/employer-solutions/>

Thank you for being a leader in your community. If you have questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact the State Breastfeeding Coordinator, Martha Hagen, at 785-291-3161 or mhagen@kdheks.gov

Sincerely,

_____ County WIC Clinic